Demand of Farmers for Cheap Transport

1924. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any plan to provide refrigerated bogies to farmers to bring their produce to cities;

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to move with speed to meet demand of farmers for better transport;

(c) whether any meeting have been held with traders across the country to establish close links; and

(d) the full details of steps being taken by Government to provide rapid and cheap transport for farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. A total of 10 Refrigerated Vans have been introduced so far on Indian Railways for transportation of perishable commodities, including fruits, vegetables, frozen foods etc.

(b) Refrigerated Vans (VPRs) are attached to long distance Mail/ Express trains for faster movement of these commodities.

(c) and (d) Efforts are being made by zonal railways to publicise this new service by indian Railways through advertisements in newspapers and holding meetings with traders.

Rail Projects In Orissa

1925. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that development of rail-network in Orissa has been neglected as compared to its neighbouring States, West Bengal, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that fund allocation for East Coast Railway projects is abysmal which is delaying completion of the projects;

(c) whether a request has been received from the State for grant of adequate funds for speedy completion of the existing and new projects; and

(d) if so, the present status of all these projects and time-frame within which these would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Orissa has not been neglected, in so far as the development of railway network and infrastructure in the State is concerned.

(b) No, Sir. The projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The progress of various ongoing New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Electrification works in Orissa along with their target dates of completion, as and wherever fixed, and the budget outlay provided for each of them during 2004-05 are as given under:—

(r.s. in Crore)

s. No.	Name of the Project	Present Status	Outlay provided in the Budget 2004-05
1	2	3	4
		NEW LINES	
1.	Daitari-Banspani (155 Kms)	Banspani-Joruli (11 Kms) section has been completed and commissioned. Joruli-Keonjbar (48 Kms) section has also been completed. On Keonjhar-Tomka (98 Kms) section, earthwork, bridgeworks and other ancillary works are in progress. The project is likely to be completed during 2005-06, depending upon availability of resources. The work is under National Rail Vikas Yojna.	83.00
2.	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh (56 Kms)	Land has been acquired partially. Presently, work has been taken up in Lanjigarh-Bhawanipatna (31 Kms) section, where earthwork and bridge-work are in progress.	8.00
3.	Khurda Road-Bolangir (289 Kms)	Final Location Survey has been completed partially. Land has been acquired partially. Work is in progress on a length of 2.5 Kms from Khurda Road end, where the land is available with the Railway. Tenders for earthwork and bridges for part length are under process.	15.38

1 2	3	4
4. Haridaspur-Paradeep (82 Kms)	Final Location Survey and soil investigation of major bridges have been completed. Land has been acquired partially. The work is being implemented by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL).	6.00
5. Angul-Sukinda Road (98.7 Kms)	Final Location Survey and soil investigation for all major bridges have been completed.	2.00
6. Talcher- Bimlagarh (154 Kms)	New work taken up in Supplementary Budget 2003-04. Final Location Survey and preliminary arrangements like preparation of plans & estimates are being taken up.	5.00
	GAUGE CONVERSION	
1. Rupsa-Bangnposi (89 Kms)	Gauge conversion of Rupsa-Baripada (52 Kms) section is targeted for completion in 2004-05, where earthwork and bridgework are in progress.	27.54
2. Naupada-Gunupur (90 Kms)	Land acquisition is in progress. Contracts for earthwork and bridges for 88 Kms have been awarded and the works is in progress.	15.00
	DOUBLING	
1. Nergundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur (43 Kms)	Kapilas Road-Nergundi-Birupa Cabin segment has been completed and commissioned Earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress or; rest of the section. The work on Cuttack-Raghunathpur is likely to be completed during 2004-05.	15.00
2. Rahama-Paradeep (23 Kms)	The work has been completed and the section is to be commissioned.	11.90
3. 2nd Bridges on Mahanadi & Birupa (3 Kms)	Work is in progress of 2nd bridge over River Birupa. The work of 2nd Mahanadi bridge is to be executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL). The tenders have been processed.	11.00
4. Lanjigarh-Titlagarh (47 Kms)	Kesinga-Norla Road (23 Kms) and Norla Road-Lanjigarh (11 Kms) sections are targeted for completion during 2004-05. Earthwork and bridgework are in progress on rest of the section.	20.00
5. Rajathgarh-Barang (20 Kms)	Final Location Survey and geo-technical investigation of all major bridges except that on River Mahanadi have been completed. Land acquisition is in progress. The work is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL).	15.00

1	2	3	4
6	Khurda Road-Puri (Phase-I) (15.3 Kms)	Earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress Work is in progress for station buildings at Haripur, Motari and Delang.	1000
7.	Sambalpur-Rengali (22.7 Kms)	Final Location Survey has been completed Land acquisition is under process and tenders are under finalization.	10.00
8	Jharsuguda Bypass Line (8 73 Kms)	Final Location Survey has been completed. Preparation of plans and estimates has been taken up.	3.50
9	Cuttack-Barang (12 Kms)	Final Location Survey is in progress The work is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL).	20.00
1	. Khurda Road-Barang 3rd Line (35 Kms)	Final Location Survey has been taken up. The work is being Line executed by Rail Vikas Nlgam Ltd. (RVNL).	10.00
		RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION	
1.	Kharagpur/ Nimpura-Bhubaneswar including branch line of Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep (540 Route Kms)	The work is being implemented under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY) except Cuttack-Paradeep section for which the target has not been fixed because of doubling in progress	36.00
2.	Bhubaneswar-Kottavalasa including Khurda Road-Puri (470 Route Kms)	Bhubaneswar-Kottavr-iasa section completed. Khurda Road-Puri is targeted for completion by Dec. 2004.	35.00

The status ot new project proposals requested by the btate Government is as under.-—

1. Jeypore-Malkangiri New Line.	Survey in progre:
2. Talcher-Gopalpur New Line.	Survey completed
3. Phulbani-Berhampur New Line.	-do-
4. Baragarh-Nawpada Road New Line.	-do-
5. Jeypore-Nawarangpur New Line.	-do-
6. Rayagada-Gopal^ur New Line.	Suggestion noted for future consi-deration at an appropriet 3 time
7. Baitarni-Sathipur New Line.	-do-

However, the projects at Item Nos. 2 to 5 could not be considered in view of acute constraint of resources.

Vacant Railway Land

1926. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge lands belonging to Railways are lying vacant;

(b) whether Government proposed to lease these lands for commercial purposes to increase the revenue of Railway; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Railways have about 4,23,000 hectares (ha) of land out of which 20,000 ha of land is vacant, mostly in longitudinal strips along the track. This land is required by Railway for its own use. The land which is not needed for immediate use, however, is utilised temporarily for plantation, commercial licensing for purposes directly connected with Railway working etc.

New Trains in Rajasthan

†1927. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether people of Rajasthan have demanded connectivity of the State by railway lines with various States of the country in view of its vast potential for the same;

(b) the steps being taken by Government for introducing new trains from Anoopgarh to Delhi via Bhatinda (express train running at night), Jodhpur to Thiruvananthapuram, Amritsar to Mumbai via Bikaner, Jodhpur and Ahmedabad and Coimbatore to Jodhpur in this regard;

(c) if so, the comprehensive details thereof along with the time-limit fixed for the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.